BALDOCK URBAN DISTRICT

Annual Medical Reports

for the years

1916. 1917. 1918.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1918

The Chairman and Members of the District Council

Gentlemen,

I herewith beg to present to your Council a report for the year on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of your district as requested by the Local Government Board.

As I was not in office for this year I can only give a short report from the notes at my disposal.

The general health of the Town has been good throughout the year.

CHIEF STATISTICS

POPULATION - This is estimated at 2258 for your district, which shows a diminution of 29 since the previous year and of 146 since the year 1914.

Since the beginning of November 600 soldiers have been billeted in the Town.

AREA - This has not been increased since 1st April 1915 and is now 358 acres.

BIRTHS - The births registered during the year numbered 45, all of which were legitimate and [illegible] were males and [illegible] females.

This total of 45 gives a rate equal to 19.9 per 1000 population. With the exception of the year 1915 this is the lowest figure recorded for the past 27 years.

For comparison, the birthrate for the County of Hertfordshire was 18.5 and for England and Wales [illegible].

DEATHS - The number of deaths registered in this district during the year was 28, to which must be added [illegible] which occurred in other districts and from which must be deducted the death of one non-resident, though really two should have been deducted as the death of two non-residents were registered in Baldock.

Registered causes were:-

Pulmonary tuberculosis	3	Influenza	1
Other tuberculous diseases	2	Cancer, malignant disease	1
Congenital Debility, etc	4	Pneumonia (all forms)	1
Organic Heart Disease	2	Nephritis & Bright's disease	1
Bronchitis	3	Childbirth - Insanity	1
Other defined diseases	9	Unknown causes	1

The ages at death were: 4 under one year old, 2 between two and five, 1 between five and fifteen, 1 between fifteen and twenty-five, 2 between twenty-five and forty-five, 4 between forty-five and sixty-five and 16 sixty-five years and upwards.

During the 1st quarter were 9 deaths, giving rate equal to 15.9 per 1000
" " 2nd " " 4 " " " " 7.1 "
" " 3rd " " 5 " " " " 8.9 "
" " 4th " " 12 " " " " 21.3 "

The total 30 deaths gives us a rate equal to 13.3 per 1000, but as only 29 deaths really belong to our district the rate should really be 12.8.

For comparison, the death rate for the County of Hertfordshire was 12.2 and for England and Wales 14.0.

INFANT MORTALITY, or deaths in Infants under 1 year - There were 4 deaths during the year, 2 of which were due to premature birth and died within a week of their birth and 2 were twins one of which died at the age of five months and was not certified and the other at seven months certified [illegible] or wasting.

The 4 deaths gives a rate equal to 89 per 1000 births which does not compare unfavourably with 85.2 the rate for the County of Hertfordshire or with 91 the rate for England and Wales.

TUBERCULOSIS - 4 were tuberculous - 1 were males and 3 females.

This causes 2.2 per 1000 population which is [illegible]

CANCER - There was only one death from malignant disease during the year. This gives a rate of 0.4 per 1000 population. The rate for this County was 1.[illegible]

SEVEN CHIEF DEATH RATE - The mortality from the 7 chief epidemic diseases was 1 due to influenza. This represents a rate equal to 0.44 per 1000. Compare this with the rate of 0.40 for the County of Hertfordshire

The 4 deaths gives a rate equal to 89 per 1000 births which does not compare unfavourably with 69.3 the rate for the County of Hertfordshire or with 91 the rate for England and Wales

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1916

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As I was not in office for this year I can only give a short report from the notes at my disposal

The general health of the Town has been good throughout the year

CHIEF STATISTICS

POPULATION - This is estimated at 2256 for your district, which shews a diminution of 29 since the previous year and of 146 since the year 1914

Since the beginning of November 600 soldiers have been billeted in the Town.

AREA - This has not been increased since 1st April 1913 and is now 358 acres.

BIRTHS - The births registered during the year numbered 45, all of which were legitimate and of which 15 were males and 30 females

This total of 45 gives a rate equal to 18.3 per 1000 population. With the exception of the year 1900 this is the lowest figure recorded for the past 27 years.

For comparison, the birthrate for the County of Hertfordshire was 18.3 and for England and Wales 21.6.

DEATHS - The number of deaths registered in the district during the year was 28, to which must be added 3 more wich occurred in other districts and from which must be deducted the death of one non-resident, though really two should have been deducted as the deaths of two non-residents were registered in Baldock

Registered causes were:-

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	Influenza	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases	2	Cancer, Maligmant disease	1
Congenital Debility, etc	4	Pneumonia (all forms)	1
Organic Heart Disease	3	Nephritis & Bright's disease	1
Bronchitis	3	Childbirth - Insanity	1
Other defined diseases	9	Unknown causes	1

The ages at death were: 4 under one year old, 2 between two and five, 1 between five and fifteen, 1 between fifteen and twenty-five, 2 between twenty-five and forty-five, 4 between forty-five and sixty-five and 16 sixty-five years and upwards

During the 1st quarter were 9 deaths, giving rate equal to 15.9 per 1000
" " 2nd " " 4 " " " " 7.1 "
" " 3rd " " 5 " " " " 8.9 "
" " 4th " " 12 " " " " 21.3 "

The total 30 deaths gives us a rate equal to 13.3 per 1000, but as only 29 deaths really belong to our district the rate should really be 12.8.

For comparison, the death rate for the County of Hertfordshire was 12.2 and for England and Wales 14.0.

INFANT MORTALITY, or deaths in Infants under 1 year - There were 4 deaths during the year, 2 of which were due to premature birth and died within a week of their birth and 2 were twins one of which died at the age of five months and was not certified and the other at seven months certified as marasmus or wasting.

CAUSES OF DEATH

DIARRHOEA - There were no deaths for this disease during the year. This makes the 10th year in succession in which no deaths have occurred

TUBERCULOSIS - During the year 6 cases were notified in our district 4 were tuberculosis of lungs and 2 abdominal Tuberculosis. Of these 3 were males and 3 females. The mortality was 5 and the death-rate from this cause 2.2 per 1000 population which is rather high.

CANCER - There was only one death from malignant disease representing a rate of 0.4 per 1000 population. The rate for this County was 1.21

EPIDEMIC DEATH RATE - The mortality from the 7 chief epidemic diseases was 1 due to influenza. This represents a rate equal to 0.44 per 1000 Compare this with the rate of 0.48 for the County of Hertfordshire

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1916

The Chairman and Members of the Hertfordshire Council

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The general health of the Town has been good throughout the year

CHIEF STATISTICS

POPULATION - This is estimated at 2286 for your district, which shows a diminution of 29 since the previous year and of 146 since the year 1914.

Since the beginning of November 600 soldiers have been billeted in the Town.

AREA - This has not been increased since 1st April 1913 and is now 358 acres.

BIRTHS - The births registered during the year numbered 45, all of which were legitimate and of which 15 were males and 30 females

This total of 45 gives a rate equal to 18.3 per 1000 population. With the exception of the year 1900 this is the lowest figure recorded for the past 27 years.

For comparison, the birthrate for the County of Hertfordshire was 18.3 and for England and Wales 21.8.

DEATHS - The number of deaths registered in the district during the year was 28, to which must be added 3 more which occurred in other districts and from which must be deducted the death of one non-resident, though really two should have been deducted as the death of two non-residents were registered in Baldock

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Bronchitis	2	Childbirth - Insanity	1
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During the 1st quarter were 9 deaths, giving rate equal to 15.9 per 1000
" " 2nd " " 4 " " " " 7.1 "
" " 3rd " " 5 " " " " 8.9 "
" " 4th " " 12 " " " " 21.3 "

The total 30 deaths gives us a rate equal to 13.3 per 1000, but as only 25 deaths really belong to our district the rate should really be 12.8.

For comparison, the death rate for the County of Hertfordshire was 12.2 and for England and Wales 14.0.

INFANT MORTALITY, or deaths in infants under 1 year - There were 4 deaths during the year, 2 of which were due to premature birth and died within a week of their birth and 2 were twins one of which died at the age of five months and was not certified and the other at seven months certified as marasmus or wasting.

CAUSES OF DEATH

DIARRHOEA - There were no deaths for this disease during the year. This makes the 10th year in succession in which no deaths have occurred

TUBERCULOSIS - During the year 6 cases were notified in our district 4 were tuberculosis of lungs and 2 abdominal Tuberculosis. Of these 3 were males and 3 females. The mortality was 5 and the death-rate from this cause 2.2 per 1000 population which is rather high.

CANCER - There was only one death from malignant disease representing a rate of 0.4 per 1000 population. The rate for this County was 1.21

EPIDEMIC DEATH RATE - The mortality from the 7 chief epidemic diseases was 1 due to influenza. This represents a rate equal to 0.44 per 1000 Compare this with the rate of 0.48 for the County of Hertfordshire

NOTIFICATION DISEASES

The incidence of these diseases was slight and no mortality resulted. In January there were a few cases of chicken-pox and one case of puerperal fever was notified. A slight outbreak of German measles commenced in February and continued into May, eleven cases altogether being notified. Of measles there was one case notified in March and one in May

In June and July there were a few cases of whooping cough

In July one case of ophthalmia neonatorum and one case of scarlet fever were notified. The latter was removed to the isolation hospital and the house disinfected.

In December there were a few cases of influenza

School closure was not found necessary during the year.

SCHOOL HEALTH

During the year 6 visits were paid to the two schools in the Town for the purpose of medical examination and 147 children were examined. The result of these examinations shewed that 40 children had enlarged tonsils 23 adenoids, 61 carious teeth, 8 defective eyesight, 18 unclean heads, 6 defective hearing, 5 malnutrition and 25 other defects. 25 were unvaccinated.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant

(Signed) BERTRAM SUGGIT

Medical Officer of Health

May 5th 1919

NOTIFICATION DISEASES

The incidence of these diseases was slight and no mortality resulted.
In January there were a few cases of chicken-pox and one case of puerperal fever was notified. A slight outbreak of German measles commenced in February and continued into May, eleven cases altogether being notified. Of measles there was one case notified in March and one in May
In June and July there were a few cases of whooping cough
In July one case of ophthalmia neonatorum and one case of scarlet fever were notified. The latter was removed to the isolation hospital and the house disinfected.
In December there were a few cases of influenza
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I remain,

Your obedient Servant

(Signed) BERTRAM BUGGIT

Medical Officer of Health

May 5th 1919

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1917

The Chairman and Members of the District Council

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to your Council a report for the year on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of your District as requested by the Local Government Board.

As I was not in office for this year and away most of the year on active service I can only give a very short report from the notes at my disposal

CHIEF STATISTICS

POPULATION - This is estimated at 2426 for your district and shews an increase of 170 on the previous year and an increase only of 24 since 1914.

AREA - This is now 358 acres the same as on 1st April 1913

BIRTHS - The births registered during the year numbered 45, the same as last year. To this must be added 3 registered in other districts. Of the total 48 34 were malesand 14 females, 3 were illegitimate and 45 legitimate children.

This total of 48 births gives a rate equal to 17.4 per 1000 population which is the lowest recorded for the past 28 years

For comparison, the birth-rate for the County of Hertfordshire was 13.8 and for England and Wales 17.8

DEATHS - The number of deaths registered in the district during the year was 34, to which must be added 13 which occurred in other districts and from which must be deducted the death of one non-resident. This gives us a total of 46 deaths belonging to the district, of which 26 were males and 20 females.

Registered causes were:-

Pneumonia (all forms)	7	Whooping cough	1
Organic heart disease	5	Influenza	1
Tuberculosis meningitis	2	Bronchitis	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	Other respiratory diseases	1
Other tuberculous diseases	1	Nephritis & Bright's disease	1
Cancer, malignant disease	4	Congenital debility, etc.	1
Other defined diseases	17	Unknown causes	3

The total 46 deaths gives us a death-rate of 18.9 per 1000 which with the exception of the years 1907 and 1909 is the highest recorded for the past 28 years. This must be attributed to the large number of deaths from pneumonia and organic feart disease

For comparison, the death rate for the County of Hertfordshire was 12.2 and for England and Wales 14.4

INFANT MORTALITY or death in infants under 1 year. There were 4 deaths during the year. This gives us a rate equal to 83 per 1000 births

For comparison, the rate for the County of Hertfordshire was 75 and for England and Wales 97.

CAUSES OF DEATH

DIARRHOEA - There were no deaths from this disease during theyear. This makes the 11th year in succession in which no deaths have occurred.

TUBERCULOSIS - During the year 7 cases were notified in our district 3 were pulmonary and 4 non-pulmonary. Of these 4 were males and 3 females The mortality was 4 and the death rate from this cause 1.6 per 1000 population.

CANCER - There were 4 deaths from malignant disease representing a death rate of 1.6 per 1000

For comparison the rate for the County of Hertfordshire was 1.29

EPIDEMIC DEATH RATE - The mortality from the 7 chief epidemic diseases was 2 due to whooping cough and influenza giving a rate equal to 0.82 per 1000

For comparison the rate for the County was 0.28.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1913

The Chairman and Members of the District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to your Council a report for the year on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of your District as required by the Local Government Board.

As I was not in office for this year and away most of the year on active service I can only give a very short report from the notes at my disposal.

GENERAL STATISTICS

POPULATION - This is estimated at 2425 for your district and shows an increase of 170 on the previous year and an increase only of 24 since 1914.

AREA - This is now 388 acres the same as on 1st April 1913

BIRTHS - The births registered during the year numbered 45, the same as last year. To this must be added 3 registered in other districts. Of the total 46 34 were male and 14 female, 3 were illegitimate and 43 legitimate children.

This total of 46 births gives a rate equal to 17.4 per 1000 population which is the lowest recorded for the past 25 years

For comparison, the birth-rate for the county of Hertfordshire was 13.8 and for England and Wales 17.8

DEATHS - The number of deaths registered in the district during the year was 34, to which must be added 13 which occurred in other districts and from which must be deducted the death of one non-resident. This gives us a total of 46 deaths belonging to the district, of which 26 were males and 20 females.

Registered causes were:-

Pneumonia (all forms)	7	Whooping cough	1
Organic heart disease	5	Influenza	1
Tuberculous meningitis	2	Bronchitis	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	Other respiratory diseases	1
Other tuberculous diseases	1	Nephritis & Bright's disease	1
Cancer, malignant disease	4	Congenital debility, etc.	1
Other defined diseases	17	Unknown causes	3

The total 46 deaths gives us a death-rate of 18.9 per 1000 which with the exception of the years 1907 and 1909 is the highest recorded for the past 28 years. This must be attributed to the large number of deaths from pneumonia and organic heart diseases

For comparison, the death rate for the County of Hertfordshire was 12. and for England and Wales 14.4

INFANT MORTALITY or deaths in infants under 1 year. There were 4 deaths during the year. This gives us a rate equal to 83 per 1000 births

For comparison, the rate for the County of Hertfordshire was 75 and for England and Wales 97.

CAUSES OF DEATH

DIARRHOEA - There were no deaths from this disease during the year. This makes the 11th year in succession in which no deaths have occurred.

TUBERCULOSIS - During the year 7 cases were notified in our district 3 were pulmonary and 4 non-pulmonary. Of these 4 were males and 3 female The mortality was 4 and the death rate from this cause 1.6 per 1000 population.

CANCER - There were 4 deaths from malignant disease representing a death rate of 1.6 per 1000

For comparison the rate for the County of Hertfordshire was 1.29

EPIDEMIC DEATH RATE - The mortality from the 7 chief epidemic diseases was 2 due to whooping cough and influenza giving a rate equal to 0.82 per 1000

For comparison the rate for the County was 0.28.

NOTIFICATION DISEASES

In January one case of chicken-pox occurred, which was contracted in a Letchworth factory.

In February one case of cerebro-spinal meningitis occurred in a soldier He was removed to Cambridge. A certain number of swabs taken from all the men in his draft were positive, but the swabs taken from the inmates of the house where he was billeted proved to be negative.

The two schools in the Town were closed on 5th February for three weeks owing to mumps and again on 7th March for another two weeks as 124 children were absent for the same reason

A slight outbreak of German measles commenced at the end of March and continued into May, 9 cases being notified. In April one case of measles was notified. In June there were a few cases of mumps again. In August there were a few cases of epidemic diarrhoea. A few cases of whooping cough occurred from August to November. In November one case of Ophthalmia neonatorum was notified. A case of Typhoid fever was notified in the Norton End district in November and was removed to the Isolation Hospital. An analysis of well water shewed surface contamination of the well.

SCHOOL HEALTH

During the year 4 visits were paid to the two schools in the Town for the purpose of medical examination and 96 children were examined. The result of the examinations shewed that 22 children had enlarged tonsils, 6 adenoids, 51 carious teeth, 10 defective eyesight, 15 unclean heads, 2 malnutrition and 11 other defects. 20 were unvaccinated

I have the honour to be
Your obedient servant

(Signed) BERTRAM SMGGIT

Medical Officer of Health

May 5th 1919

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1918

The Chairman and Members of the District Council

Gentlemen,

I have to honour to submit to your Council my first annual report as your Medical Officer on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of your District

I am presenting only a brief report giving, as requested by the Local Government Board, the vital statistics for the year, so that the records of the district may be continuous; an account of those outbreaks of disease which haveoccurred paying special attention to the recent influenza epidemic and other prominent sanitary events; and a reference to the sanitary condition of the district at the close of the war, which I am embodying in a separate and fuller report.

CHIEF STATISTICS

POPULATION - The population of the district, which at the census of 1911 was 2094 has by estimation now risen to 2682. In 1914 this was estimated at 2402 and theincrease 280 is probably largely accounted for by the influx of Belgian refugees.

I may here draw your attention to the fact that this year again the death rate exceeds the birth rate. With the single exception of the previous year this state of affairs has not occurred for the past 29 years

AREA - The area of the district at the 1911 census was 285 acres and the number of inhabited houses 507 with an average of 4.1 persons per house. The district was increased on 1st April to 358 acres and has not since been added to. At the last census this increased area contained a total of 560 inhabited houses

BIRTHS - The births registered during the past year numbered 50, to which must be added 3 registered in other districts. Of the total 53, 32 were males and 21 females, 49 were legitimate,4 illegitimate (1 male and 3 females.

This total of 53 gives a birth-rate of 17.6 per 1000 population, which, with the exception of the rate for 1917 is the lowest on record as far back as 1890.

For comparison the birth-rate for England and Wales was 17.7

DEATHS - The number of deaths registered in the district during the year was 40 to which must be added a further 12 which occurred in other districts and from which must be deducted 1, which represents a non-resident This gives us a total of 51 deaths belonging to the district and in this total we have been obliged to include two non-residents so that the correct figure is 49.

Registered causes were: 2 from meningitis, 1 from heart disease, 3 from bronchitis, 1 from pneumonia, 1 from nephritis, 4 from accidents and 10 from other defined diseases. The following causes were responsible for such a large number of deaths, viz. influenza 9, tuberculosis 7, congenital debility 7 and cancer 6.

The ages at death were; 6 under one year old, 2 between the ages of one and two, 7 between five and fifteen, 2 between fifteen and twentyfive,7 between twentyfive and forthfive, 6 between fortyfive and sixtyfive and 19 were sixtyfive and upwards

During the	1st	quarter	were	2	deaths	giving	rate	equal to	3.0 per 1000
"	"	2nd	"	" 7	"	"	"	"	10.4 "
"	"	3rd	"	" 10	"	"	"	"	14.8 "
"	"	4th	"	" 21	"	"	"	"	31.3 "

For the first three months the general health of the Town was exceptionally good. The cold spell in April brought an increase of respiratory diseases. During the last quarter we experienced the severe epidemic of influenza.

The total 51 deaths gives us a rate equal to 18.9 per 1000 which, with the exception of 3 years, is the highest recorded for the past 29 years. If we take 49 as our number of deaths the rate is 18.3

For comparison the death rate for England and Wales was 17.6

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1928

The Chairman and members of the District Council

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit, for your consideration, my report on the health conditions of your District.

I am presenting only a brief report giving, as required by the Local Government Board, the vital statistics for the year, so that the records of the district may be complete; an account of some outbreaks of disease which have occurred during special attention to the recent influenza epidemic and other prominent sanitary events; and a reference to the sanitary conditions of the district at the close of the year, which I am supplying in a separate and fuller report.

VITAL STATISTICS

POPULATION - The population of the district, which at the census of 1921 was 8014, has by estimation now risen to 8400. In this the estimate of 2422 and Ministry's Lighthouse is probably largely responsible for the influx of Italian refugees.

I may here mention that in the first half of this year again the death rate exceeds the birth rate. With the single exception of the previous year this state of affairs has not occurred for the past 20 years.

BIRTHS - The number of the births at the 1921 census was 205 males and the number of inhabitants became 197 male and 8 females of 4.1 females per 1000. The birth rate in the last year was 17.1 per 1000 and the death rate 10.4 per 1000. The birth rate was the lowest since 1921. The death rate was the lowest since 1921.

DEATHS - The number of deaths registered in the district was 87, 50 males and 37 females. Of the total 87, 32 were males and 55 females, 6 illegitimate (1 male and 5 female). The total of 87 gives a death-rate of 10.4 per 1000 population, which with the exception of the rate for 1917 is the lowest on record for the last 20 years.

The following table shows the birth-rate and death-rate for the last 20 years.

DEATHS - The number of deaths registered in the district during the year was 87, which may be taken as the total of deaths of persons belonging to the district and from which must be deducted 1, which represents a non-resident. This gives us a total of 86 deaths belonging to the district and in this total we have been obliged to include the non-residents as that is the correct figure to go.

Registered causes were: 2 from meningitis, 1 from heart disease, 3 from bronchitis, 1 from pneumonia, 1 from appendicitis, 4 from malignant and 19 from other visible diseases. The following causes were responsible for more than a large number of deaths, viz. Influenza 9, bronchitis 7, cerebral hemorrhage 7 and cancer 6.

The ages at death were: 6 under one year old, 2 between the ages of one and two, 7 between five and fifteen, 2 between fifteen and twenty-five, 7 between twenty-five and forty-five, 4 between forty-five and sixty-five and 19 were sixty-five and upwards.

During the last quarter ward 2 had a living rate equal to 5.6 per 1000
" " " " " 7 " " " " 10.4 "
" " " " " 10 " " " " 14.8 "
" " " " " 21 " " " " 21.3 "

As the figures show, the general health of the Town was exceptionally good. The only small in April brought an increase of respiratory diseases. During the last quarter we experienced the worst epidemic of influenza.

The total 21 cases gives us a rate equal to 18.9 per 1000 with two exceptions of 2 years, is the highest recorded for the last 20 years. If we take as the one number of deaths the rate is 18.9.

The infantile mortality rate for England and Wales was 17.8

INFANT MORTALITY, or deaths in infants under 1 year - There were 8 deaths during the year which gives a rate equal to 151 per 1000 births, which compared with 97 the rate for England and Wales is very high. It is twelve years since our infant mortality has reached so high a figure, which I'm glad to say is not due to disease, congenital debility accounting for 7 deaths out of the total of 8, the remaining cause being attributed to tuberculosis. I might add that of the 6 deaths due to premature birth 5 included triplets and twins

CAUSES OF DEATH.

		Baldock	England & Wales
Percentage of Total Deaths	Certified causes	88.23	93.3
	Inquest cases	7.64	5.4
	Uncertified causes	3.92	1.3

	1913		1914		1915		1916		1917		1918	
	Dths	Rate	Dths	Rate	Dths	Rate	Dths	Rate	Dths	Rate	Dths	Rate
Diarrhoea	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tuberculosis	3	1.3	2	0.8	2	0.9	5	2.2	4	1.6	7	2.6
Cancer	1	0.4	4	1.6	3	1.3	1	0.4	4	1.6	6	2.2
Influenza	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.4	1	0.4	9	3.3

DIARRHOEA - The mortality from this disease was again absent during the past year. This makes the 12th year in succession in which no deaths have occurred.

TUBERCULOSIS - During the year 7 cases of this disease were notified, 3 were phthisis and 4 were non-pulmonary forms. Of the 7 cases 2 were males and 5 females. 3 of these cases were referred to the County Medical Officer's clinic at Letchworth and two cases of glands of the neck were operated upon successfully at Letchworth hospital. I think we are much indebted to this voluntary hospital which does not receive the financial support it merits, £13.3.6. only having been received in defraying an outlay of £70.8.2. by this institution on behalf of Baldock patients.

The mortality from Tuberculosis was 7 and the death-rate 2.6 which was rather high again.

CANCER - The deaths from malignant disease during the year numbered 6 giving a rate of 2.2 per 1000 population. This rate is an increasing one and the increase is more marked during recent years.

EPIDEMIC DEATH RATE - The mortality amongst the civilians from the 7 chief epidemic diseases was entirely due to influenza which caused 9 deaths and this equals a rate of 3.3 per 1000 population.

Amongst the Troops stationed in Baldock the mortality was 1 in this district and 3 after removal to hospital outside the district giving an approximate death-rate of 10.5 per 1000

INFLUENZA.

A.1. The number of deaths from influenza in the district:-

For the week ending March 2...1 For the week ending Nov.9....2
" " " " July 13...2 " " " " Nov.16...2
" " " " Oct.26...1 " " " " Dec 14...1

Total for the year - 9 civilians and 1 military

A.2 Table of Age and Sex Distribution

	All ages	1 and under 4 yrs	5 and under 15 yrs	25 and under 45 yrs	45 and under 65 yrs	65 and upwards
Males	5	1	-	2	1	1
Females	4	-	2	2	-	-

A.3 The epidemic commenced in April with a mild form affecting the stomach and bowels and became more marked during May, reaching its height in June when it assumed a more severe character and gradually died down in July though not completely as there were still cases in August. In

	1915		1916		1917		1918	
	June	July	June	July	June	July	June	July
[illegible]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
[illegible]	0	[illegible]	2	0.5	2	0.3	4	1.5
[illegible]	1	[illegible]	4	1.0	3	1.7	4	1.5
[illegible]	0		0		[illegible]		[illegible]	

September and during the first week in October there was a renewal of the outbreak

The third and worst wave of the epidemic assumed a different type attacking chiefly the respiratory organs. This started on 17th October amongst the troops and rapidly spread to the civilian population. It continued well into November when it began to abate although we were never quite free from influenza during December

A.4 29 of these troops were evacuated to the 1st Eastern General Hospital Cambridge, where I have no doubt pathological and bacteriological examinations would be made. No examinations of this kind were made locally.

A.5 Reinforcements for the South African Troops stationed in our district arrived in Baldock on 5th October, their last port of call being Sierra Leone, where I have it on good medical authority that a pneumonic form of this epidemic was raging and this was the type we had. I have no doubt that the number of cases of influenza was largely increased by those working from Baldock who by segregating in the neighbouring factories of Letchworth so spread the disease in our Town.

A.6 The incubation period appeared to be from 1 to 4 days. Infectivity in the gastro-intestinal form seemed to continue so long as the tongue remained furred, which took several weeks to become clean and also in the respiratory type to last as long as the discharges from the nose throat and lungs, which were very persistent.

Methods of spread appeared to be chiefly by the breath and sneezing. This was especially noticeable in the military, large numbers of whom were sharing the same dormitory and amongst whom the disease seemed more prevalent. Handkerchiefs, towels, vessels and clothing no doubt played their part in the spread of this disease and it is interesting to note that one death from influenza and pneumonia occurred in a woman who took in washing from the troops

I know of no evidence bearing on the possible protection by a previous attack, but second attacks were not common.

A.7. The earlier form was characterised by the usual symptons of gastro-enteritis, viz:- vomiting, intestinal colic and diarrhoea.

The later type exhibited the following characteristics:- malaise, fever, muscular pains, headache, muco-purulent catarrh of the nose and throat and spreading down to the lungs, pneumonia (these patients in complexion and general appearance bore a strong resemblance to puerperal fever) Delirium, severe diarrhoea and intestinal colic were noted in a few instances but by no means common. Hemorrhage appeared to be a frequent concomitant especially from the nose. Bleeding from the lungs and in many instances from the uterus was not uncommon

A.8. The incidence seemed to be particularly severe on the soldiers, partly on account of their being segregated together and partly on account of their not being used to the climate.

B.1. There was no distribution of advice to the public in the form of leaflets, only by those who were attending to the sick. I was ill myself at the time for 3 weeks

B.2 The two schools in the Town were closed for 2 weeks from 1st July and again from 28th October for 3 weeks, and also for a few days in the middle of December till the end of the term. At the same time the Sunday Schools were closed. The Picture Palace was placed out of bounds for all troops during the October epidemic.

B.3. In October to November a temporary hospital was arranged for the South African troops, amongst whom the incidence was very heavy, 91 out of a strength of 142 contracting influenza, and was looked after by the Medical Officer in charge of Troops and six ladies, the majority of whom had had nursing experience and who very kindly gave their services. 29 of the more virulent type of pneumonic cases were sent to a military hospital outside our district.

B.4 There was no patient who required it who had neither medical nor nursing assistance at their own home.

B.5. No provision of facilities for bacteriological examination of material from patients was made.

B.6. Prophylaxies by vaccine was not attempted. The secondary causes of deaths following influenza were due to pneumonia 4 civilians (and 1 militar) broncho-pneumonia 2, bronchitis 1, pleurisy and anaemia 1, hemiplegia 1 (fy)

NOTIFICATION DISEASES

A small epidemic of measles and German measles broke out in the middle of April and continued during every month into the middle of August, 16 cases occurring in 12 houses. Tonsillitis was prevalent in May during the hot dry dusty weather. Whooping was prevalent in May and June. Scarlet fever made its appearance on 16th July and has continued intermittently every month till the end of the year. 18 cases were notified in 14 houses scattered all over the town. Fifteen of the cases occurred in school children

Two cases of diphtheria were notified, one in August and one in September

Two suspicious cases of cerebro-spinal meningitis were in June removed to the Isolation Hospital for observation and one case of cerebro-spinal meningitis occurred in a child late in October and was also immediately removed. All three were fatal though one only was certified from this cause.

Although 24 cases of infectious diseases were taken to the Isolation Hospital during the year I consider it desirable that your district should join in with the Hitchin Rural and Letchworth Urban Districts in maintaining this very necessary Isolation Hospital on the Hitchin Road.

HOUSING AND SANITATION

On 3rd July your Council approved of a hostel situate in Pond Lane to accommodate 92 workmen of Messrs. Kryn and Luby, Letchworth. As a result of inspections commenced in October by your deputy inspector of nuisances and myself a short report on certain insanitary conditions was presented in December to your Council, advocating better housing, drainage and water supply and emphasising the need for the 100 new cottages

SCHOOL HEALTH

During the year 6 visits were paid to the two schools in the Town for the purpose of medical examination and 140 children were examined. The result of these examinations showed that 28 children had enlarged tonsils, 18 adenoids, 70 carious teeth, 16 defective eyesight, 4 defective hearing 34 unclean heads, 17 malnutrition and 13 other defects. 40 were unvaccinated. The parents have been advised as to how these defects can be remedied and the district nurse follows up these cases. The schools were closed on 1st July for two weeks owing to prevalence of whooping cough and gastric influenza, 18.8% of the children on the books being absent through illness at that time. The schools were closed again on 28th October for three weeks owing to gastric influenza, scarlet fever and illness of teachers, 17.3% of the children being then absent. The schools were again closed for the same reason in December for a few days until the end of the Term, 22.8% of the children being absent

I Remain,

Your obedient Servant

(Signed) BERTRAM SUDGIT

May 5th, 1919

Medical Officer of Health

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of whole district during 1918 and previous years.

Year	Popln. estimated to middle of each year	BIRTHS			TOTAL DEATHS regd. in dist.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS		Nett DEATHS belonging to the district			
		Uncorrected No.	NETT						Under 1 yr of age		at all ages	
			No.	Rate	No.	Rate	Non-residents regd. in the dist.	Residents not regd. in dist.	No.	Rate pr 1000 births	No.	Rate
1913	2348		53	22.1	22	7.6	1	7	1	18	28	10.1
1914	2402	47	49	20.3	28	11.6	-	4	3	61	32	13.3
1915	2285	49	50	21.2	33	14.4	2	6	6	120	37	16.2
1916	2256	45	45	18.3	28	12.4	1	3	4	89	30	13.3
1917	2426	45	48	17.4	34	14.0	1	13	4	83	46	18.9
1918	2682	50	53	17.6	40	14.9	1	12	8	151	51	18.9

Area of district in acres (land and inland water)	285	At census in 1911
Total population at all ages.....	2094	
Number of inhabited houses.....	507	
Average number of persons per house.....	4.1	

TABLE II.

Cases of infectious diseases notified during the year 1918.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	At all ages	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED At ages - years						Total cases removed to Hospital
		Under 1	1 & under 5	5 & under 15	15 & under 25	25 & under 45	45 & under 65	
Measles & German measles	16	1	6	6	3	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	18	-	1	15	0	2	-	16
Diphtheria (incl. Membranous Croup)	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	1
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Other forms of Tuberculosis	4	1	-	1	2	-	-	-
TOTALS	46	4	7	25	6	3	1	18

Isolation Hospital, Walsworth under Joint Board of Hitchin R.D.C. and Letchworth U.R.C. situated without the district

Add to this two suspected cases of cerebro-spinal meningitis

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of whole district during 1918 and previous years.

Year	Population as estimated to middle of year	Births				Deaths				Infant Deaths		Infant mortality rate per 1000 births	Birth-rate per 1000 of estimated population	Death-rate per 1000 of estimated population	Infant mortality rate per 1000 births	Birth-rate per 1000 of estimated population	Death-rate per 1000 of estimated population
		Number registered				Number registered											
		Male	Female	Total	Rate	Male	Female	Total	Rate	Male	Female						
1913	2949	65	84.1	94	7.6	1	1	2	1	1	1	16	32	10.1	32	10.1	
1914	2908	49	60.3	83	14.6	-	4	4	3	1	1	61	28	13.3	28	13.3	
1915	2888	50	81.8	93	14.4	2	6	8	3	1	1	120	37	14.2	37	14.2	
1916	2850	45	58.5	98	18.4	1	3	4	1	1	1	89	30	15.5	30	15.5	
1917	2825	45	57.4	94	14.0	1	13	4	1	1	1	83	46	16.9	46	16.9	
1918	2850	50	57.0	94	14.0	1	12	6	1	1	1	182	32	16.9	32	16.9	

Area of district in acres (land and inland water)	288	At census 1911
Total population at all ages	2894	
Number of inhabited houses	507	
Average number of persons per house	4.3	

TABLE II.

Cases of notifiable diseases notified during the year 1918.

Disease	At all ages	Number of cases notified at ages - years						Total cases removed to Hospital
		Under 1 year	1 & under 5	5 & under 15	15 & under 25	25 & under 45	45 & under 65	
Scarlet Fever	16	1	8	6	3	-	-	-
Diphtheria	12	-	1	18	9	2	-	18
Erysipelas (Group)	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Cerebro-spinal meningitis	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	3	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Enteric fever (Typhoid)	4	1	-	1	2	-	-	-
TOTAL	44	4	9	28	6	3	1	18

Isolation Hospital, Wallsworth under Joint Board of Hitchin R.D.C. and Letchworth U.D.C. situated within the district

Add to this two suspected cases of cerebro-spinal meningitis

TABLE III.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1918.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District							
	All ages	Under 1 year	1 & undr 2 yr	5 & undr 15	15 & under 25	25 & undr 45	45 & under 65	65 & upwards
All 66 causes (Certified incl. 4 inquest cases)	49	6	2	7	2	7	6	19
All 66 causes (Uncertified)	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Influenza	9	-	1	2	-	4	1	1
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	4	-	0	-	-	2	1	1
Other Tuberculosis Diseases	3	1	-	-	1	-	-	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease	6	-	-	-	-	1	1	4
Meningitis	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Organic Heart Disease	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Bronchitis	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Nephritis & Bright's Disease	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Congenital Debility & Malformation including Premature Birth	7	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	4	-	-	3	-	-	0	1
Other Defined Diseases	10	-	-	-	1	-	3	6
TOTALS	51	8	2	-	7	2	7	19
Sub-entries included in above figures: Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
" Influenzal Pneumonia	6	-	1	2	-	3	-	-

TABLE IV.

Infant Mortality 1918. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 year of age.

Causes of death	Under 1 week	3 to 4 weeks	Total under 4 wks	9 months & under 12 months	Total Deaths under one year
All causes (Certified	4	1	5	1	6
All causes (Uncertified	2 *	0	2	-	2
Abdominal Tuberculosis	-	-	-	1	1
Premature Birth	6 ‡	-	6	-	6
Atrophy, Debility & Marasmus	-	1	1	-	1
TOTALS	6	1	7	1	8

* One Triplet and one twin ‡ Includes triplets and twins

Nett Births in the year:- Legitimate 49, illegitimate 4
Nett Deaths in the year of legitimate infants 7; illegitimate infants 1

TABLE XXI.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1918.

Note the cases at the subjoined ages of "residents" whether occurring within or without the district

CAUSES OF DEATH	All ages	Under 1 year	1 & under 5 yr	5 & under 15	15 & under 25	25 & under 45	45 & under 65	65 & upwards
All causes (Certified (incl. 4 Influenza deaths)	49	6	2	7	2	7	6	19
causes (Uncertified	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Influenza	8	-	1	3	-	4	1	1
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	4	-	0	-	-	2	1	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases	3	1	-	-	1	-	-	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease	6	-	-	-	-	1	1	4
Meningitis	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Organic Heart Disease	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Bronchitis	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Nephritis & Bright's Disease	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Congenital Debility & Malformation including Premature Birth	7	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	4	-	-	3	-	-	1	
Other Defined Diseases	10	-	-	-	1	-	3	6
TOTALS	51	8	2	-	7	2	7	19
Sub-centres included in above figures: Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
" Influenzal Pneumonia	3	-	1	2	-	3	-	-

TABLE IV.

Infant Mortality 1918. Note Deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 year of age.

Causes of death	Under 1 week	3 to 4 weeks	Total under 4 wks	3 months & under 12 months	Total Deaths under one year
All causes (Certified	4	1	5	3	8
causes (Uncertified	2 *	0	2	-	2
Abdominal Tuberculosis	-	-	-	1	1
Premature Birth	6 †	-	6	-	6
Atrophy, Debility & Marasmus	-	1	1	-	1
TOTALS	6	1	7	1	8

* One triplet and one twin † Includes triplets and twins

Note Births in the year:- Legitimate 49, Illegitimate 4
Note Deaths in the year of Legitimate Infants 7; Illegitimate Infants 1